

Justice Court

Department Overview

The Justice Court is the court responsible for the original jurisdiction of all civil and criminal cases outside of the City of Bozeman. The courts provide an effective and efficient court system for the residents of the county. The courts accomplish this while being fiscally responsible within the budget allocated to them.

For FY 04 the Justice Court saw an increase in Justice of the Peaces from 1.5 Judges to two (2) full time Justices of the Peace. While this increase is budgeted actual hours worked are maintained below the approved budget.

For FY 06 the Court is authorized hire a Court Clerk in September 2005, to meet the significant increase in workload. The Justice Courts have seen a 30% increase in cases filings since 2000. At the same time Justice Court Collections have increased from \$957,895 in 2000 to \$1,829,741 in calendar year 2004, a 91% increase in revenue. Unfortunately a significant portion of these revenues is transferred to the State. The increases in cases and fines is a direct result of an increase in law enforcement officers, significant increases in the number of debt filings and the legislatures increase of the monetary limit for civil suits to \$7,000.

Another factor in increased workload is the number of residents in the county and the increased reliance on courts for satisfaction.

Recent Accomplishments

- Comprehensive Case Management Software.
- Staff professionalism pursued by the Office Manager.
- Mediation in civil Matters with 75% settlement on cases mediated.
- Court has facilitated the increased caseload in a smooth and efficient manner.
- Continued on the job training for the clerks.

Department Goals

- To establish an effective, efficient court that is easily accessible to the public.
- To insure that employees are well trained, helpful, friendly and accurate in their dealings with the public.
- Bailiff's presence during Law & Motion.
- Video Arraignments.
- Bi-Annual Training for the Judges.
- Annual Training for Clerks.

GENERAL GOVERNMENT

Justice Court

Department Budget

Object of Expenditure	Actual FY 2004	Budget FY 2005	Actual FY 2005	Request FY 2006	Preliminary FY 2006	Final FY 2006
Personnel	\$ 373,487	\$ 434,381	\$ 436,815	\$ 463,511	\$ 479,123	\$ 480,011
Operations	147,114	161,561	149,348	168,782	170,122	170,122
Debt Service	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Outlay	16,072	33,800	13,505	42,655	35,155	35,155
Transfers Out	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 536,673	\$ 629,742	\$ 599,668	\$ 674,948	\$ 684,400	\$ 685,288

Budget by Fund Group

General Fund	\$ 536,673	\$ 629,742	\$ 599,668	\$ 674,948	\$ 684,400	\$ 685,288
Special Revenue Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Debt Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Capital Project Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Enterprise Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Internal Service Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Trust & Agency Funds	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	\$ 536,673	\$ 629,742	\$ 599,668	\$ 674,948	\$ 684,400	\$ 685,288

Funding Sources

Tax Revenues	\$ 35,367	\$ 41,500	\$ (2,260)	\$ 44,048	\$ 44,665	\$ 45,161
Non-Tax Revenues	467,088	548,089	601,816	589,730	597,989	596,433
Cash Reappropriated	34,218	40,152	112	41,169	41,746	43,694
Total	\$ 536,673	\$ 629,742	\$ 599,668	\$ 674,948	\$ 684,400	\$ 685,288

Department Personnel

Personnel Summary

No	FT/PT	Title	FTE
2	Full-Time	Justice of the Peace	1.75
1	Full-Time	Executive Secretary III	1.00
8	Full-Time	Justice Court Clerks	8.00
Total Program FTE			10.75

Justice Court

2006 Budget Highlights

Personnel

- Court authorized hiring a new Court Clerk effective September 2005 resulting from an increase in case filings.

Operations

- No significant change.

Capital

- Computer \$2,500
- Court room remodel \$6,000
- Copier replacement \$11,500
- Scanner \$5,000
- Office remodel \$2,655

County Commission Goals/Department Response

The County Commission established a set of overarching goals for the county government. Listed below are the County Commission's goals, followed by the methods by which Justice Court is striving to fulfill those goals.

Exceptional Customer Service

- Prompt, accurate and timely processing of cases filed.
- Civil Judgments entered in a timely manner.
- General Temporary Orders of Protection are ruled upon and issued on the same date they are received in court.

Be Model for Excellence in Government

- Effective, efficient court easily accessible to the public.

Improve Communications

- Access to Website.

To be the Employer of Choice

- Provide professional development to staff.

Justice Court

WORKLOAD INDICATORS/PERFORMANCE MEASURERS

Workload Indicators

Indicator	Actual FY 2003	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Projected FY 2006
1 . Cases Filed	13,110		13,500	14,000
2 . Court Collections	\$1,829,741	1,845,000	1,850,000	1,875,000

Performance Measures

Measure	Actual FY 2003	Actual FY 2004	Actual FY 2005	Projected FY 2006
1 . Video Arraignments	1,144	1,250	1,250	1,400
2 . Law & Motion	4,160	4,300	4,300	4,500
3 . Judge Trials	1,664	1,750	1,750	1,900
4 . Jury Trials	312	312		312
5 . Mediations	144	192		192
6 . Hearings	1,800	2,000		2,200
7 . Omnibus Hearings	1,560	1,700		1,850

Commentary

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